

ANIMAL FACT SHEET

Color the pictures and learn more about the animals of the Timucuan Preserve!



- ♦ Armadillos eat insects. They have a long sticky tongue to slurp them up as quickly as possible.
- ♦ They have strong claws for digging open ant nests.
- ♦ Armadillos can swim underwater and can do the dog paddle. Are you a good swimmer?
- ♦ Armadillo babies have soft shells like your fingernails, as they grow up the shells get harder.
- ♦ Armadillos give birth to four identical young- the only mammal to do this!



- ♦ Wood Storks are an endangered species. Can you find out what this means?
- ♦ You can recognize a Wood Stork because they have dark featherless heads and white bodies trimmed in black.
- ♦ The Wood Stork relies on touch to catch his lunch. He walks with his beak down in the water and when his beak touches a fish it snaps shut. Yum!
- ♦ It can fly long distances and thousands of feet up in the air.



- ♦ The Gopher Tortoise is a threatened species.
- ♦ Healthy Gopher Tortoises lived for 40-60 years!
- ♦ They live in burrows underground which protects them from predators, harsh weather, and fire. Sometimes snakes or other animals will share these burrow homes.
- ♦ The Gopher Tortoise does not have as many young as other tortoises and so their numbers are getting smaller and smaller. The babies that survive will be affected by loss of land and food due to development.



- ♦ The American Alligator can live up to 35 years in the wild, 50 years in captivity.
- ♦ There are around 80 teeth in an alligator's mouth.
- ♦ The temperature of the alligator's nest determines if the babies will be male or female.
- ♦ They eat fish, turtles, mammals, snakes, and birds.
- ♦ The American Alligator is listed as a threatened species.



- ♦ The Opossum is the only marsupial in North America-this means that the female carries her young in a pouch.
- ♦ They are nocturnal (come out at night).
- ♦ When frightened opossums may fall into a state of shock which makes them look dead, thus the phrase "playing 'possum."
- ♦ They eat plants or animals: insects, snails, rodents, berries.
- ♦ Few live longer than one year in the wild. They are often killed by predators such as dogs, cats, owls, or humans (and their cars).



- ♦ Dragonflies have excellent eyesight, sometimes they even seem curious about the things they see!
- ♦ There are many different types of dragonflies and they can be hard to tell apart.
- ♦ Dragonflies are the fastest flyers in the insect world, traveling at speeds up to 35 miles per hour.
- ♦ The dragonfly's front and back wings are slightly different shapes.